

West Liberty Business Association

Thursday, January 9, 2020 @ 5pm at LT's Uniquities

In attendance: Mitch Lingrell (LT's Uniquities,) Roberta Yoder (Yoder Concrete Construction, LLC,) Jonathan McCutcheon (Supply Chain Technologies,) Katie Neer (Solomon's Garage,) Lydia Hess (Logan County Chamber of Commerce,) Tami Cox (Country Friends of Ohio,) Jill McKelvey and Jane Griffith (Village Council,) Lynetta Tevis (LT's Uniquities,) Kelly Wilson (Sloan Insurance,) Chelsea Bray (Elle A Design,) Alycia Brehm (Hillside Greenhouse,) Jennifer Loffing (Lily's Garden,) Lane Boggs (Liberty Premium Landscaping LLC)

Roberta read a "highlight reel" – a list of accomplishments made by the West Liberty Business Association in 2019. It was a great reminder of that was done. Roberta asked for help in case she missed anything. This list will be used for the upcoming membership drive.

Mitch opened the floor for questions about the association and what it does. Kelly asked about the committees and where help was needed. Mitch said that Katie could use help planning the Tour of Homes. Kelly offered to help her. Mitch said that Christmas Parade committee could also use more people. Katie suggested that also be a planning committee for the annual dinner. Roberta mentioned that there had been a Downtown Beautification committee, which is needed to ensure the planters get watered regularly. Another idea was to have a Fundraising Committee. Tami Cox will be heading the Events and Marketing Committee, which could be broken down into subcommittees for various events. Katie wants to continue to head the Tour of Homes.

Alycia asked if we could send out a list of events planned for the year. Katie said the best place to see them is on mywestliberty.com on the events page.

Mitch told the group that Mark Boyer is stepping down as Treasurer, and we are looking for people who would be interested in filling that role. Jon McCutcheon expressed interest. Anyone else interested in the treasurer position should let Mitch or Roberta know. Terms are for three years. Roberta has offered to take it over until the Annual Dinner when a new treasurer can be slated in. Roberta will continue to be secretary for one more year to better manage the rotation of the board members.

Jill and Jayne from the village council asked what the council can do to help businesses grow. They don't want to raise taxes so they are looking at other options. There was discussion around how allowing alcohol into the village could help with finances for businesses, atmosphere and bringing in more tax revenue and what would be needed for that to happen. They also discussed the Columbus Street bridge and a grant that they are applying for to open it to pedestrian and bike traffic. They also discussed the bike path and plans for attracting visitors from there. Jill stated that businesses should have set hours and make sure they are posted clearly on their door or window and be consistent with social media as well. She encouraged businesses to be consider staying open late and be open to growth, especially if we get better restaurants. Ideas were thrown out of possible businesses for the area and ideas to improve the community. Mitch had everyone write down their ideas on slips of paper and turn them back in to him. Ideas tossed around included a great restaurant, alcohol, clean up the village day,

chocolate or wine walk, services for elderly, dry cleaner, children's entertainment, sober bar, kid friendly & kid jamboree, play place, Airbnb loft apartments, primitive camping at Lion's park.

Jennifer Loffing introduced herself as the person who is taking over Hemmingway's, previously Dorcey's, next to MCC Thrift. She is originally from West Liberty and currently owns Lily's Garden in Urbana. She is planning on keeping the bookstore concept and adding more gifts. All welcomed her.

***Next meeting is on Thursday February 13th at 7:30 am at Holdren Brothers.**

Roberta Yoder
WLBA Secretary